

**Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the matter of)	
)	
Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable)	
Communications Policy Act of 1984 as amended)	MB Docket No. 05-311
by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and)	
Competition Act of 1992)	
)	

**COMMENTS OF
CITY OF SEATTLE CITIZEN’S TELECOMMUNICATION AND
TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY BOARD
IN RESPONSE TO THE FURTHER NOTICE
OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING**

The City of Seattle Citizen’s Telecommunications and Technology Advisory Board submits these comments in response to the Further Notice of Proposal Rulemaking, released March 5, 2007, in the above-captioned rulemaking (“Further Notice”).

The Citizens' Telecommunications and Technology Advisory Board (CTTAB) was established in 1995 by Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) 21.60.060 to study and make recommendations to the Mayor and the City Council on issues of community-wide interest relating to telecommunications and technology, including cable television access, technology access, and regulatory issues within the City's authority regarding wire and wireless communication systems.

1. The City of Seattle is the local franchising authority for Seattle, Washington. There are two franchised cable operators within our jurisdiction. Those cable operators, along with the current expiration dates of their franchises are: Comcast LLC, whose franchise agreement expires 1-1-2016 and Millennium Digital Media whose franchise agreement expires 3-1-2008.

2. We support and adopt the comments of the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors, the National League of Cities, the National Association of Counties, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the Alliance for Community Media, and the Alliance for Communications Democracy, filed in response to the Further Notice.

3. We oppose the Further Notice's tentative conclusion (at ¶ 140) that the findings made in the FCC's March 5, 2007, Order in this proceeding should apply to incumbent cable operators, whether at the time of renewal of those operators' current franchises, or thereafter. This proceeding is based on Section 621(a)(1) of the Communications Act, 47 U.S.C. § 541(a)(1), and the rulings adopted in the Order are specifically, and entirely, directed at "facilitat[ing] and expedit[ing] entry of new cable competitors into the market for the delivery of video programming, and accelerat[ing] broadband deployment" (Order at ¶ 1).

4. We disagree with the rulings in the Order, both on the grounds that the FCC lacks the legal authority to adopt them and on the grounds that those rulings are unnecessary to promote competition, violate the Cable Act's goal of ensuring that a cable system is "responsive to the needs and interests of the local community," 47 U.S.C. § 521(2), and are in conflict with several other provisions of the Cable Act. But even assuming, for the sake of argument, that the rulings in the Order are valid, they cannot, and should not, be applied to incumbent cable operators. By its terms, the "unreasonable refusal" provisions of Section 621(a)(1) apply to "additional competitive franchise[s]," not to incumbent cable operators. Those operators are by definition already in the market, and their future franchise terms and conditions are governed by the franchise renewal provisions of Section 626 (47 U.S.C. § 546), and not Section 621(a)(1).

5. We strongly endorse the Further Notice's tentative conclusion (at para. 142) that Section 632(d)(2) (47 U.S.C. § 552(d)(2)) bars the FCC from "preempt[ing] state or local customer service laws that exceed the Commission's standards," and from "preventing LFAs and cable operators from agreeing to more stringent [customer service] standards" than the FCC's.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Hart", with a stylized flourish extending upwards and to the right.

Harry H. Hart, III, Chairman
City of Seattle Citizen's Telecommunications and
Technology Advisory Board
April 16, 2007